

Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

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*Single Family-North Fork
Stillaguamish*
Vacant

*Single Family-South Fork
Stillaguamish*
Vacant

*Single Family-Main Stem
Stillaguamish*
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Single Family-UGA
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John Connolly (Chair)

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*Washington Department of
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Gina Gray

Tulip Tribes
Mike McHugh

Surface Water Management Staff
Sean Edwards

Snohomish Health District Staff
Brent Raasina

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October 25, 2012

Snohomish County Council
3000 Rockefeller Ave.
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Councilmembers,

Pursuant to Title 25A, the Stillaguamish River Clean Water District (CWD) Advisory Board wishes to provide you the following recommendations and comments:

Referral and Compliance

Snohomish County Planning and Development Services (PDS), together with the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE), periodically identify pollution problems on local farms and residential properties, often related to improper management of livestock. In many of these cases, the problem is referred to the Snohomish Conservation District (SCD), which contacts the landowner and attempts to provide advice and assistance to correct the problem. If the landowner is uncooperative, SCD advises PDS and DOE of their inability to assist. At this point, the situation is considered a code enforcement issue. However, the Board understands that the enforcement process now in place needs improvement, and finds that the polluting practices are too often allowed to persist.

The CWD Advisory Board recommends that the County Council use its legislative oversight to encourage and enable the Executive Branch to bring effective enforcement to the referral and compliance process, in cooperation with DOE, and to provide PDS with whatever staffing and funding may be needed for that purpose. We support SWM's proposed funding for a 1/2 FTE in PDS for drainage code, water pollution, and NPDES enforcement.

Re-Define Board Member Position

SCC Title 25A.30.040(a) states that the CWD Advisory Board membership shall include:

"Five positions which shall be for rate payers from the single family rate category. Each of the following sub-watersheds or geographic areas shall be represented: Lakes, North Fork Stillaguamish and tributaries, South Fork Stillaguamish and tributaries, Mainstem Stillaguamish and tributaries, and unincorporated UGA."

We have been advised by Surface Water Management (SWM) that the "Unincorporated Urban Growth Area (UGA)" position has been extremely difficult to fill, despite its outreach efforts. SWM has suggested that this position might be better allocated as an "At Large" position (now defined as

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three positions in SCC Title 25A.30.040(a)), and the Board agrees. SWM has offered to write an amendment re-defining the UGA position as an "At Large" position. **The CWD Board recommends** that the County Council adopt this amendment to SCC Title 25A.

Stillaguamish CWD Advisory Board Discretionary Fund

The Board works with SWM staff to evaluate and recommend small, on-the-ground clean-water projects, including education and outreach. Approved projects can receive a Discretionary Fund match of up to 75% of out-of-pocket costs, from Shellfish Protection (RCW 90.72) revenues. We thank you for your support of the CWD Discretionary Fund Program.

So far in 2012, the following projects have been successfully completed:

- Shudick On-Site Septic (OSS) Repair near Sunday Lake
- Drainage and Diking District No. 7 (DD7) Sea Dike Culvert Repair just north of Stanwood
- Shellfish Gardening Workshops at Warm Beach

A second application for repair of a failing OSS at Warm Beach has now been approved by SWM, along with an application for funding assistance for cleanup of toxic algae in Lake Ketchum. A third OSS application has been recommended by the Board and is expected to be approved this month. It is worth noting that the participation of the Snohomish Health District on the CWD Advisory Board has been instrumental in identifying and evaluating potential OSS projects.

The DD7 project repaired a major failure of a drainage facility in the south Skagit Bay sea dike. This failure resulted in flooding of local farm fields, posing the risk of contamination of the shellfish beds, as well as threatening Stanwood with potential catastrophic levee failure. The successful completion of the project demonstrates the effectiveness of cooperative effort by the County, CWD, cities and special districts. It was reported in both the Herald and Stanwood/Camano News.

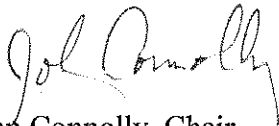
The Board will continue to encourage community participation in the Discretionary Fund program. We believe these projects not only serve to protect shellfish bed health in Port Susan and south Skagit Bay, but also raise public awareness of the benefits of reducing bacterial pollution in the Stillaguamish basin.

No Rate Increase Needed

Our review of CWD financing reveals that revenues will be sufficient to fund the 2013 work plan, and we are advised by the SWM Director that there is no need for an increase in the rates at this time. **The CWD Board therefore recommends** that the County maintain CWD fees at their current level for 2013.

The Board thanks you for your attention and welcomes any comments or questions.

Respectfully submitted,



John Connolly, Chair

Cc:

- Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District
- Kevin Plemel, Snohomish Health District
- Clay White, Snohomish County Planning and Development Services
- Tyler Breum, Drainage and Diking District No. 7